

Keeping in Touch



News and notes from
the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.
5300 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029, (213) 464-5100.

APRIL, 1990

FEBRUARY, 1990

TOP 20 TITHES

1.	MCC Dallas.....Dallas, TX	\$2,660.87
2.	MCC Toronto.....Ontario, CAN	2,124.40
3.	MCC Washington.....Washington, DC	1,818.99
4.	MCC San Francisco.....San Francisco, CA	1,601.40
5.	MCC in the Valley.....N. Hollywood, CA	1,582.38
6.	MCC of the Resurrection.....Houston, TX	1,503.06
7.	MCC Long Beach.....Long Beach, CA	1,375.75
8.	All God's Children MCC.....Minneapolis, MN	1,197.45
9.	MCC Tampa.....Tampa, FL	972.39
10.	MCC of the Rockies.....Denver, CO	935.46
11.	First MCC of Kansas.....Wichita, KS	884.05
12.	King of Peace MCC.....St. Petersburg, FL	882.57
13.	Agape MCC of Ft. Worth.....Ft. Worth, TX	690.89
14.	All Saints MCC of Atlanta.....Atlanta, GA	609.88
15.	MCC Albuquerque.....Albuquerque, NM	585.04
16.	MCC Detroit.....Detroit, MI	525.71
17.	MCC New York.....New York, NY	520.18
18.	MCC Charlotte.....Charlotte, NC	496.78
19.	MCC Baltimore.....Baltimore, MD	482.56
20.	Church of the Trinity MCC.....Sarasota, FL	478.80

FEBRUARY, 1990

TOP 20 PER CAPITA

1.	MCC New York.....New York, NY	35.14
2.	New Covenant MCC.....Anaheim, CA	32.67
3.	Open Arms MCC.....Rochester, NY	31.81
4.	MCC of Northern Virginia.....Oakton, VA	27.87
5.	MCC Ottawa ECM.....Ontario, CAN	26.89
6.	Maranatha MCC.....San Lorenzo, CA	26.22
7.	MCC Rockville.....Rockville, MD	23.69
8.	Covenant MCC.....Birmingham, AL	21.97
9.	Calvary MCC.....Redwood City, CA	21.68
10.	Gentle Shepherd MCC.....Scottsdale, AZ	20.41
11.	MCC Ocean of Life.....Costa Mesa, CA	20.27
12.	New Life MCC.....Berkeley, CA	19.81
13.	MCC San Jose.....San Jose, CA	19.63
14.	MCC in the Valley.....N Hollywood, CA	19.37
15.	Church of the Resurrection.....Chicago, IL	19.12
16.	MCC Shreveport.....Shreveport, LA	18.81
17.	MCC Pittsburgh.....Pittsburgh, PA	18.55
18.	Christ Alive MCC.....Vancouver, BC, CAN	18.49
19.	River City Living MCC.....San Antonio, TX	17.82
20.	MCC of the Living Spring...Eureka Spgs, AR	17.42

PRAISES

Praise God, MCC Blue Ridge, in Roanoke, Virginia elected Rev. Thomas Bohache of California as their new Pastor. Rev. Bohache will begin his ministry in Roanoke in April. Congratulations to MCC Blue Ridge and Tom!

Rejoice! Rev. Colleen Darraugh was installed as Pastor of Harvest MCC, Denton, Texas on March 25. Mr. Clarke Friesen, South Central District Coordinator, officiated the installation. God's blessings to Harvest MCC and Rev. Darraugh in this new ministry together.

Hallelujah! Song of Messiah MCC, Bellingham, Washington celebrated their 1st Anniversary on March 25th with Rev. Ed Sherriff, Northwest District Coordinator as guest speaker, and "Heartsong" as special music. They would like to thank everyone for your faithful prayers and support over the past year. Congratulations, Song of Messiah MCC.

Praise God! Grace MCC of North Miami Beach, Florida, a "New Work" of the Southeast District and an outreach of Christ MCC of Miami, had their inaugural worship service in their own rented facility, Sunday, March 4th under the pastoral leadership of Student Clergy, Tom Gashlin. They had 36 in attendance. Congratulations!

PRAYERS

Prayers are requested by ICM Reconciliation of Mexico City, for the family and friends of Santiago Bernardo, a Deacon of the Church, who died of AIDS on March 14th. Also please pray for Pastoral Leader, Juan Ramirez who has been diagnosed with AIDS.

Prayers are requested for Rev. Brad Anderson, Los Angeles, CA, who has not been doing well. He has been in and out of the hospital for the past few months.

Morning Star MCC of Worcester, Mass., requests prayer for Rev. Emmett Watkins who has gone back into the hospital with pneumonia. Our prayers and love are with you Emmett!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! General Conference XV, July 14-21, 1991! Plan now to join us at The Pointe - Tapatio Cliffs in Phoenix, Arizona.

POSITION OPEN

River of Life MCC, of the Tri-Cities, Washington, is announcing the open position of Pastor, effective immediately. River of Life MCC is located in south-eastern Washington, three and a half hours driving distance from Portland, Oregon and Seattle, Washington. River of Life MCC was founded in 1980. We are a small, but dedicated congregation, seeking a qualified member of the clergy who is interested in helping us grow spiritually, as well as numerically.

The monthly compensation offered is a salary of \$500.00, plus health insurance, for a half-time position.

If you desire additional information or an application packet, please contact:

Michael F. Albertini
c/o River of Life MCC
P.O. Box 1678
Richland, WA 99352-0059
(509) 943-5428

CLERGY SELF ASSESSMENT SEMINAR

The Alban Institute, Inc. presents Clergy Self Assessment a Five-day Seminar, July 9-13, 1990 in Buffalo, New York. Beginning on Monday at 12:00 Noon ending on Friday at 1:00 pm with Lunch. The Seminar will be lead by Roy M. Oswald, Senior Consultant of the Alban Institute.

Getting a fix on one's ministry is often an illusive, threatening and difficult task. Yet effectiveness in ministry over the long haul is rarely possible without periodic stock-taking. This kind of assessment ought to be a priority before crisis occur. It should also be self initiated rather than externally imposed.

This five-day program will explore the complexity of clergy evaluation. It will outline several workable approaches and begin the assessment process. You will review your ministry through the lens of key theories developed by the Alban Institute, with the aid of other self-assessment instruments. Peer and individual consultations will be held as needed.

By the end of this event you will have identified the strengths and liabilities you bring to your ministry. Follow-up procedures will be suggested so that you can continue the assessment process. This course is designed for clergy at all stages of their careers. For more information contact: The Alban Institute, Inc., 4125 Nebraska Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20016; (800) 457-8893.

SISTERSPIRIT PASSOVER HAGGADAH

SisterSpirit of Portland, Oregon announces the publication of their all new Passover Haggadah. This Haggadah contains the full Jewish Seder service. While this is a women's Haggadah, it is adaptable for use by other groups.

From the preface:

"Why is this Haggadah different from all other Haggadahs? One of the first things you will notice about this haggadah is that all of the Hebrew and imagery is in the feminine forms. We do this as a way of empowering women, of saying we, too, are created in the image of the Divine, we too are the community of Yisrael. The stories we tell in this haggadah are about women, strong role models for us to grow from and for us to celebrate women's herstory. We bring our own spiritual journeys to the Passover story and make this Seder meaningful for all of us."

This Haggadah would be especially valuable to MCCs who want to inclusify existing Haggadahs through balancing imagery.

The SisterSpirit Passover Haggadah is available at \$5.00 per copy from:

SisterSpirit
P.O. Box 9246
Portland, OR 97207

GLPCI '90

This year marks the eleventh year of the Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International (GLPCI). The members of the Gay Fathers Coalition of Washington, DC, invite you to attend this year's family reunion to be held in our nation's capital on June 1, 2, and 3 at the Hyatt Regency in Crystal City, Virginia.

Join us in our celebration and share a rare moment to be yourself among a family of friends. There are workshops, social events, and a look at the famous and not-so-famous Washington monuments - all focused on us, who we are, and where we want to be. Bring your lover, bring a friend, bring your children, or just come to see for yourself.

We have organized something for everyone. This year our children will be attending a conference of their own. Not unlike the parents and lovers, the children will run, jump, and play, and learn from the experiences of each other that they are not alone.

(Continued next page)

EXPERIENCING GOD IN STRESS AND LOSS

A LIBERATING JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF JOB

by Cari Grace Bourette, M.S.

"Cari Grace Bourette is a healer who is gifted in the theology of liberation. I strongly recommend her booklets. They deserve a wide distribution because they will contribute to individual and societal growth toward wholeness."

-- Virginia Ramey Mollenkott, Ph.D., D.Min., author of ten books, including Godding: Human Responsibility and the Bible.

"It's a good, readable, popular introduction to the book [of Job]." -- Dr. Thomas Hanks, author of For God so Loved the Third World, and Old Testament Scholar.

"Cari Bourette succeeds well in explaining the power of the book of Job and making its insights available to a general audience. [In a] wholistic, integrative style... she guides her readers on a journey through the book of Job so that they, like Job, can leave behind a fearful, punishing God and come to embrace the 'God Who Is', the God who is with us through everything. [This booklet makes] a helpful companion for all of us who question God or our ideas about God when we experience loss and/or suffering."

-- Reverend Jefferey Pulling, Ph.D., UFMCC Northeast District Coordinator.

NOW AVAILABLE

Through UFMCC Church Services

Individual copies at \$3.00 each, 5-9 for \$2.50 each, 10 for \$2.00 each

ORDER FORM

Your Name _____ Order Date _____

Church/Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/PC _____ Country _____

Note: All church orders require two signatures

Please send ____ copies of the booklet Experiencing God in Stress and Loss: A Liberating Journey Through the Book of Job at _____ each, total _____ (You will be billed for shipping).

Note: All prices are in U.S. funds and are subject to change without notice.

Check/Money Order No. _____ VISA/MC No. _____

Signature _____ Exp. Date _____

Mail to: UFMCC Church Services Dept. 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304 Los Angeles, Ca. 90029 (213) 464-5100

EXPERIMENTING GOD IN STREET AND LUGS

ALTERNATIVE JOINT THROUGH THE WHEEL OF GOD

THE GOD OF THE STREET

The first of the three experiments in the series is the 'Street God' experiment. This is a simple experiment in which the subject is asked to observe the street and to report on the number of cars, the number of people, and the number of dogs. The results of the experiment are as follows:

1. The number of cars observed was 10.

2. The number of people observed was 5.

3. The number of dogs observed was 2.

4. The number of cats observed was 1.

5. The number of birds observed was 3.

6. The number of insects observed was 10.

7. The number of plants observed was 5.

8. The number of flowers observed was 2.

9. The number of trees observed was 1.

GLPCI '90 (Cont'd)

Like the conferences that have come before us, our objective is for each and everyone in attendance to grow, share, listen, and take home memories that will last a lifetime.

For Registration information or questions please contact: GLPCI Conference Registration, GFC/DC, P.O. Box 19891, Washington, DC 20036-0891; or call Dennis at (301) 990-0638 or Randy at (301) 990-9522.

GENERAL COUNCIL X PRESS RELEASE

The General Council of UFMCC met in Hollywood, CA, March 8-13, 1990. We welcomed newly elected District Coordinators: Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Pulling, Northeast District; Mr. Jay Neely, Gulf-Lower Atlantic District; Rev. Hong Tan, European North Sea District; and Rev. Don Pederson, Southwest District.

General Council met with programmers and Fellowship staff, hearing reports from each Fellowship program. A lot of the time was spent in Division meetings. Saturday was spent in the third of our long-range planning days, focusing on strategic plans for the future.

The Council approved the Elders' plan for the Fund for Overcoming Racism (F.O.R.), which will provide scholarships for ethnic minority student clergy, and approved the appointment of its first Board of Trustees: Rev. Gary Wilson, Portland, OR; John Fowler, Melbourne, Australia; Pat De La Rosa, Arlington, TX; Irene Travis, New Brunswick, NJ; and George Padilla, Los Angeles, CA, chair.

An Elders' Task Force on Structures and Systems was created with the appointment of Rev. David Farrell, San Diego, CA, chair; Bernard Barbour, Houston, TX; Joyce Robbins, Ottawa, Ontario; JoNee Shelton, New Orleans, LA; Rev. Darlene Garner, Baltimore, MD; Rev. Larry Uhrig, Washington, D.C.; Rev. Kathleen Williams, Lakewood, OH; Rev. Bill Hein, Adelaide, SA; and Elder Larry Rodriguez, Los Angeles, CA. The Task Force will meet twice prior to General Conference XV and four times in the following Biennium, completing its work by General Conference XVI.

The Council took action to ease the Financial crisis World Church Extension is in, by authorizing the employment of a WCE staff person for fundraising and the development of materials to use in WCE fundraising. Over \$1,000 was raised and more pledged just by members of the General Council to ensure that Rev. Elder Jean White's stipend not be reduced in order to hire the fund raiser.

Church Services Department and the Director of Administration were authorized to contract with Adam DeBaugh to develop three resources for distribution through Church Services for use in local churches, using budgeted funds. Rev. Willie White was appointed chair of the Samaritan College Board of Trustees. Rev. La Paula Turner was appointed Executive Director of the Department of People of Color, effective March 12, 1990, through General Conference in 1991.

Charters were granted to MCCs in Knoxville, TN, Topeka, KS, and Greater Tulsa, OK. The UFMCC Benevolence Fund will continue to be augmented and dispersed to assist UFMCC personnel who are in need. A Fellowship-wide Endowment Fund will require considerable further study of its financial, legal and staffing ramifications and thus was referred to the Corporate and Legal Division and the Program and Budget Division for study by the March 1991 General Council meeting, using the Northwest District Endowment Fund as a resource.

The policy eliminating the three-month grace period for churches in arrears of their Fellowship tithes, District or Pensions (USA) assessments was passed in second reading and is now in effect. Lay Delegate votes will be denied to any churches in arrears of their Fellowship and District obligations.

Farewell plaques were given to Rev. La Paula Turner, Great Lakes District Coordinator, and Mr. Arthur Pearson, Western Canadian District Coordinator, who will not be standing for re-election and will be going off the General Council.

The Moderator, Rev. Elder Troy Perry, appointed new chairs and members to the various General Council Divisions: Rev. Elder Don Eastman chairs the Program and Budget Division, which includes Rev. Elder Charlie Arehart, Rev. Bonnie Daniel, Rev. Hong Tan and Rev. La Paula Turner. Adam DeBaugh chairs the Communications, Policy and Review Division, which includes Rev. Don Pederson, Rev. Ed Sherriff and Rev. Jeff Pulling. Rev. Bill Hein chairs the International Concerns, Research and Development Division, which includes Elder Larry Rodriguez, Rev. Elder Jean White, Mr. Rod McAvoy, Rev. Tom Bigelow and Mr. Art Pearson. Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson chairs the Corporate and Legal Division, which includes Mr. Jay Neely and Mr. Clarke Friesen.

Many more motions were passed in a very busy and extremely productive week. Complete minutes of General Council X will be available soon. If you wish to receive the minutes of General Council Meetings you may subscribe for them at \$10 US a year. To subscribe or for further information contact: UFMCC Church Services, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029; or call (213) 464-5100.

CELEBRATION '90 FESTIVAL CHORUS

International Festival Chorus Forming: We are looking for singers (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) to participate in a 1,000 voice Celebration '90 Festival Chorus, associated with the Celebration '90 Gay Games III and Cultural Festival to be held in Vancouver, BC, Canada, August 4-11, 1990.

The Celebration '90 Festival Chorus is scheduled to perform at the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Gay Games III, as well as at a special concert the week of the Festival.

The Chorus is open to Gays, Lesbians, and their parents and friends. We are striving for an international mix in membership, as well as a balance in voice part and gender. Some previous Choral experience is preferred, but auditions are not required.

There will be a registration fee of US \$45 which will cover the cost of sheet music, rehearsal tapes, and performance shirts. Other expenses - travel, lodging and food - will be the individual's responsibility. Space is filling quickly in Vancouver, so contact our official travel agency, Journeys of Denver (800-747-3626), soon to ensure the arrangements of your choice.

The Chorus has received endorsement and support from the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA), the Celebration '90 Board of Directors in Vancouver, the Colorado Athletic Exchange, and the Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. For organizational and financial purposes the Celebration '90 Festival Chorus is a special project of the Denver Chapter of Parents FLAG.

Deadline for registration is June 1, 1990. To register or for more information, contact:

CELEBRATION '90 FESTIVAL CHORUS
P.O. Box 61388
Denver, Colorado 80206
(303) 331-2306

COMMUNITY CARDPACK GAY PRIDE EDITION

Strub/Dawson, Inc. announces the Gay Pride edition of the Community Cardpack, scheduled to be mailed on June 1, 1990.

Community Cardpack was launched in November, 1989, and is the most widely distributed advertising medium aimed directly at the gay community today.

Many advertisers offer exclusive products and discounts available to consumers only through Community Cardpack, including books, tapes, videos and limited edition artwork by artists such as Robert Mapplethorpe, Keith Haring, and Christopher Makos.

Non-profit organizations gaining exposure through the Cardpack include GMHC, ACT-UP, NGRA and AIDS Related Community Services.

For advertising or other information, contact Will Williams, Assistant Publisher or Martha States, Advertising at (914) 591-5900 or write Strub/Dawson Community Cardpack, One Bridge Street, Irvington, NY 10533.

FIELD REPRESENTATIVE FOR WORLD CHURCH EXTENSION

An immediate opening is available for a full-time position as a Field Representative for World Church Extension.

Primary responsibilities include:

- Travel to local churches to present the vision and program of World Church Extension (program materials will be developed by the Board of World Church Extension).
- Coordinate WCE fundraising efforts in local churches and districts.
- Set up and maintain a network with district/local representatives for WCE.
- Work with the UFMCC Administrative office to follow up on pledges and accounting.

Qualifications desired include:

- Must be an active member of an MCC
- A person knowledgeable and experienced in the ministry and structure of the UFMCC.
- A person with demonstrated public speaking and written communication skills.
- A person with demonstrated sensitivity and aptitude for cross-cultural mission.
- A person with proven interpersonal communication skills.

The salary is negotiable. This staff position will report to the Director of Administration. Please send resume and three references to: UFMCC Director of Administration, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029.